

Remarks

The last Office Action has been carefully considered. Seventeen claims remain in this application, numbered 1, 3, 5-18 and 21. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended.

The present invention as claimed in newly amended independent claim 1 is a two-component adhesively coupleable ostomy device. The two components capable of being adhesively coupled together are a body attaching wafer component and a pouch component. The body attaching wafer component is adhesively adhereable to the body.

It is the adhesive coupling structure of the present invention, as newly claimed in independent claim 1, that is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references applied singly or in combination under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103.

Two components, body wafer and pouch, are adhesively coupleable and separable from each other along a pressure sensitive interface between the two components. Each of the components has a surface on opposite sides of the adhesive interface. The adhesive interface is coated onto at least one of their surfaces. The two components releaseably couple to one another along this adhesive interface.

The adhesive interface includes one or more polysiloxanes, or one or more polysiloxanes and at least one silicate resin including their blends and reaction products. The adhesive interface is resealable and resistant to migration of stomal fluids into said adhesive interface.

The Examiner cited Cilento, et al. (Cilento) and Lin in rejecting the formerly pending claims.

As provided in newly amended independent claim 1, the present invention includes a wafer and pouch that are adhesively coupleable along an adhesive interface.

Cilento is not directed to nor is it concerned with this type of ostomy device. Cilento teaches an ostomy device where the wafer and pouch mechanically couple together, see column 4, lines 35-50 and column 6, lines 23-40. In view of this approach, unsurprisingly, Cilento has no adhesive interface between the wafer and the pouch, as presently claimed. Cilento does not teach or suggest a surface on said wafer and pouch on opposite sides of the adhesive interface. Cilento does not teach the adhesive

surface coated on a surface of a wafer or pouch along which the wafer and pouch adhesively couple and are separable. Cilento does not teach a wafer/pouch adhesive interface that includes one or more polysiloxanes and at least one silicate resin, including their blends and reaction products. Cilento does not teach an adhesive interface along which a wafer and pouch adhesively and releasably couple and the adhesive interface is resistant to migration of stomal fluid as claimed. Cilento does not teach exposure of an adhesive interface to stomal effluent.

Cilento does not teach, suggest hint at, address or concern itself with the adhesively coupleable wafer and pouch and adhesive interface of the present invention as claimed in newly amended claim 1.

Cilento discloses a component C which is a microporous tape that overlaps the mechanical flange portion. This component C, sometimes referred to in the industry as a collar, has an outer surface 32 and an adhesive layer 31. The adhesive layer is pressed onto the body at a distance from the stoma and aids the body-side adhesive layer in maintaining the wafer in place. The adhesive 31 and the component C have nothing to do with an adhesive coupling, adhesive interface, stomal resistance, resealability or components of the present invention, as claimed in newly amended independent claim 1.

Lin is cited for its disclosure of siloxane adhesives and its use as a pressure sensitive adhesive.

As indicated above, Cilento does not disclose an ostomy appliance with a wafer and pouch capable of adhesive coupling along an adhesive interface. There is no suggestion in Cilento of using polysiloxane adhesive and variations thereof, as presently claimed. The disclosure of the existence of such an adhesive (Lin) with no teaching or suggestion that it be used in the manner claimed and the non-existence of such a suggestion in another reference (Cilento) does not render the present invention, as claimed in independent claim 1, as obvious.

Cilento alone or in combination with Lin does not render the present invention unpatentable.

It is respectfully asserted that the present invention, as claimed in newly amended independent claim 1 is patentable. Allowance of this application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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